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late for a review in the present number of our journal. We give it now only our grateful recognition, and forbear further notice of it, that we may leave the field open for the esteemed contributor — his friend and pupil — who has it in charge for our October issue.

16. — *A Journey through the Seaboard Slave States.* By FREDERICK LAW OL MSTED. New York: Dix and Edwards. 1856.

THIS valuable book was published just before our last issue; but we do not hesitate to speak of it, even at so late a date as this, because it is a first-class authority, and will prove to be of permanent interest. It is really amazing how little is known by the public, either North or South, of the facts relating to the system of slavery. A great mass of disconnected incidents is constantly before us; but for very obvious reasons, the most important facts and statistics regarding the operation of the system are scarcely ever put in print, and indeed they are not known, in a comprehensive way, even by Southern statesmen. We say that this is for obvious reasons. Those reasons are simply these. Southern legislatures carry so far their apprehension lest other people should interfere with slavery, that they do not collect or publish any sort of statistics which illustrate its operation. It is, again, an agricultural institution, and therefore not to be observed by hasty travellers, or by any travellers who merely pass along the great lines of travel. And, we must add, the professed Abolitionist, acting with perfect consistency on the simple principle that it is wrong for man to enslave man, is willing to acknowledge a certain indifference as to the details of his enslavement. It is without any shade of censure that we say, that we have found this class of observers less informed as to the practical details of the system of slavery than any other.

We name a single illustration of this ignorance, with some slight hope of getting a solution to a curious question. The statement was once made, in Paris, by teachers in the University, — where a good many colored persons from the West Indies are educated, — that no person of pure black blood had ever been trained in the mathematics to go beyond the fundamental processes of arithmetic. It is well known that no such statement can be made with regard to mulattoes. In attempting to test its accuracy with regard to the pure black race, we have consulted, perhaps, a hundred persons, in Southern and Northern States, planters on the one hand, ultra-Abolitionists on the other, and men of all intermediate shades of opinion. And not only was our question

never answered, but we never met a man who could suggest a way in which any such question could be answered. For the gentlemen best informed at the South can only give a few anecdotes of the race that serves them, such as have come under their own personal observation, and have scarcely better opportunity than we of studying on a large scale the general considerations which are suggested by every inquiry as to the capacity of races.

Mr. Olmsted undertakes to solve some of these questions, by seeing with his own eyes the operation of the Southern systems. A practical farmer, with very ready habits of observation, as his book of English travel shows, well read in the history of the States he passes through, he travelled from Washington, slowly, and availed himself of excellent opportunities of examining the systems of farming, that is to say, the social systems, of those States. These systems, it must be remembered, differ widely from one another. The tobacco and wheat culture of Virginia, the rosin and turpentine manufacture of North Carolina, the rice crop of South Carolina and Georgia, the sugar crop of Louisiana, each presents the system of slavery in a different light. Each requires hands to be bought and sold, bred, nurtured, trained, and kept, in its own way. The planter in Virginia knows scarcely more, by his own experience, what slavery is in Louisiana, than he knows of the working of a steam-engine in the Cornwall mines.

Addressing himself to his duty, with just the desirable combination of qualifications for it, Mr. Olmsted has made of his book of travels a standard compend of valuable information. He is a Northern man, and he has what are called Northern principles; but, we doubt not, his book will soon be greatly valued at the South, for the same reason as at the North. It seems to us singularly fair. It cannot, of course, be wholly free from travellers' mistakes, but we have not detected any; and it should be understood, that it is no mere traveller's sketch-book, but that it contains studies on the labor and history of the Southern States, which are evidently the results of very careful investigation. To all those persons, therefore, who look upon the Slavery question as a problem, requiring a practical solution, this book comes in as a stepping-stone, which will lift that discussion to a range decidedly higher than it has ever held before.

It is understood that Mr. Olmsted continued his journey from Louisiana, as far as Texas, and that he returned through the Slave States which are not on the seaboard. We hope that another volume may give us the results of his studies and observations in them. The whole range of travel, as thus gone over, involves as much novelty as travel in any part of the world.